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ARE YOU GAME?

Joseph Allen shows off the popular Dungeons & Dragons and Risk board games at the new Games People Play store on Barrington Street in Halifax. Allen is a co-owner and hopes the store will be a hit. Story, see page 8. **HALEY RYAN/METRO**

Community in mourning

Residents slamming municipality for lack of salt on road at the time of fatal crash PAGE 3

Tongue-tied zombie

Bringing his undead character to life in Warm Bodies proved easy for actor PAGE 22

Grudge matches

Moose have hands full with two teams looking to exact payback PAGE 28

Rail study demanded back on track

Considering options.

Transportation committee members want quasi-legal options explored to compel CN's co-operation on feasibility study

A study of commuter rail in HRM remains in limbo, thanks to a lack of co-operation from CN — and some regional councillors say it's time to stop being polite about it.

"I think it's probably time that somebody challenged CN on their unwillingness to deal with us," said Coun. Tim Outhit during Thursday's meeting of the standing committee on transportation.

Metro Transit supervisor of service design and projects Patricia Hughes told the committee a feasibility study of commuter rail ordered by council a year ago hasn't advanced because of a legal dispute between

Quoted



"I'm not just blindly here saying, 'I love rail.' I do love rail, but it may not be viable. I just want to know whether that's the case or not."

Coun. Tim Outhit

HRM and the rail company.

CN is refusing to co-operate in the study until the legal matter, over the maintenance of six rail bridges in HRM, is resolved.

Other committee members said that's unacceptable.

"I absolutely can't believe a company out there will not talk to us on this issue because of something completely unrelated," said Coun. Barry Dalrymple. "We need to find a way to get some co-operation and find out what we need to find out."

Solicitor Kirby Grant confirmed under a new legislative provision of the Canadian Transportation Act, the city could obtain an order for CN to come to the table.

"It may not need that being done, it may just be a question of raising that with CN that that option's there," said Grant.

Staff will discuss the best way to proceed and report back to the committee by the next scheduled meeting Feb. 28.

In the interim, Outhit suggested talking to Via Rail to find out whether recent cutbacks might have opened new doors for municipal service.

"We have a need, they have capacity, is there anything we can do here?" he asked.

Dalrymple said there's urgent need to complete the feasibility study because of the potential impact on future development. "For me, personally, a lot of those issues ... are very heavily dependent on whether there's a future for rail service in the HRM," he said.

RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO



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HRP officer

Cop charged with assaulting his wife

A Halifax Regional Police officer has been charged with assaulting his wife.

The province's independent Serious Incident Response Team says Const. Desmond Lambert has been charged with assault in relation to an incident earlier this month. The 41-year-old Lambert is expected to appear in court on Feb. 19.

Police say a woman reported the assault on Jan. 3 and officers went to an Armdale home and arrested Lambert.

The team is responsible for investigating all serious incidents involving police in Nova Scotia. **METRO**

Crosswalk collision

Teen suffers minor injuries

A 50-year-old man is facing charges after a pedestrian-vehicle collision this morning near Citadel High.

Halifax Regional Police say a 16-year-old boy was crossing the street in a marked crosswalk when he was hit by a vehicle travelling eastbound on Bell Road. The teen was taken to hospital with minor injuries. The driver was charged with failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk. **METRO**

Bogus weapon

How not to rob someone

Halifax police are investigating an odd incident involving a fake handgun.

Police say a 62-year-old Dartmouth man managed to disarm a would-be thief when the victim realized the handgun pointed at him was phoney. The assailant with the bogus weapon was one of five people who barged into the victim's Kennedy Drive apartment. The suspects fled the scene.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Debris remains on the road on Thursday from a fatal accident on Timberlea Village Parkway. A five-year-old boy was killed in the collision on Wednesday night. **HALEY RYAN/METRO**

Community grieves over death of child

Fatal crash. Boy, 5, died en route to hospital following two-vehicle crash



ALY THOMSON
halifax@metronews.ca

A community is mourning the death of a five-year-old boy after a horrific collision Wednesday evening on an icy Timberlea road.

Area Coun. Reg Rankin said residents are shocked.

"This is a community of families," said Rankin on Thursday. "I can only imagine

the unbearable grief and how one can possibly make sense of this."

The boy died en route to hospital after a pickup truck lost control and slammed into the van he was travelling in with his father and eight-year-old brother at Timberlea Village Parkway and Brunello Boulevard.

The father escaped injury, while the other boy was sent to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The driver of the truck was not seriously injured.

Debris could still be seen on the road Thursday afternoon.

RCMP Cpl. Scott MacRae said slippery roads were a con-

Quoted



"The nature of the accident is shocking."

Coun. Reg Rankin

should have been salted at the time of the crash.

Rankin said it's natural to raise such questions following an unfortunate collision. He said he's received a few emails from residents.

"I've sent the correspondence that I received related to the road conditions to our own staff," said Rankin. "It would be irresponsible for me to prejudge that, but certainly responsible of me to raise these questions."

Rankin said he had travelled on the same road about a half hour before the accident and did not come across any treacherous areas during his drive.

tributing factor in the crash.

"Our message is to be alert and reduce speed when weather conditions are bad," said MacRae on Thursday.

People have taken to Twitter to express their condolences. But some were slamming the municipality, saying the road is often slippery and

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An amalgamated transportation agency in Halifax would oversee everything from driving to cycling. METRO FILE

Hey, HRM, they've ditched their cars in San Francisco

Where rubber leaves road. Bay City official touts 'people first' approach to transportation



RUTH DAVENPORT
ruth.davenport@metronews.ca

The road to more sustainable transportation starts with the decision to make cars a last resort — that's what a city official from San Francisco told a municipal committee in Halifax on Thursday.

"We put people at the top, so walking is our No. 1 priority," said Tim Papandreou, deputy director of sustainable streets in the California city. "Everyone's a pedestrian at the beginning and end of every trip."

Papandreou made a short

Changing lanes

61%

The road-share breakdown in San Francisco today: 61 per cent of all trips are made by car; 39 per cent are by non-car.

presentation to HRM's transportation committee explaining the changes in the Bay City since the creation of the Municipal Transportation Agency 10 years ago.

The MTA amalgamated four separate departments and oversees every mode of transportation, co-ordinating walking, cycling, transit and taxis under a strategy geared toward making cars the last resort.

"Before we were integrated, we had separate investments focusing on either road building or transit services. We were under-investing in bi-

cycling and in walking," Papandreou said. "This created a vicious cycle where people were driving more and they were hitting more people, because there's more collisions with more congestion."

He said the single agency has improved co-ordination of transportation projects and integration with city planners.

HRM traffic authority Ken Reashor told the committee that consultation is underway to determine whether a single agency would work in Halifax.

"All those things are within our ability to do," Coun. Barry Dalrymple told Papandreou. "You have the tools in there for us to do those things. We need to find the will."

Papandreou is in town for the fourth anniversary of Car-Share HFX. He'll deliver a public presentation at Dalhousie's Ondaatje Hall on Friday at 4:30 p.m.

AUS championship

Mayor to chair hoops tourney

The mayor will have his hand in this year's Atlantic University Sport men's basketball championship. Mike Savage was named honorary chair of the event, which runs from March 1 to 3 at the Halifax Metro Centre.

"This is always a great tournament," he said in a news release. "It gives our young basketball players a chance to experience the best in amateur sport."

Local musician Dylan Guthro and Cape Breton's acclaimed Andrew Doyle are among the acts who will perform during the tournament.

ALY THOMSON/FOR METRO

Livery trade. City staff to review taxi and limousine committee

A discussion about the structure of HRM's new taxi and limousine committee raised the possibility of the city washing its hands of regulation altogether.



Russell Walker
METRO FILE

During Thursday's transportation-committee meeting, Coun. Russell Walker asked for a staff report on the liaison group, established last year, saying taxi drivers aren't happy with it.

"I think it's time for a re-

view to say, 'Is this the right structure or not,' he said.

City staffer and liaison-group member Andrea MacDonald said the group was "well balanced," and noted it had met with members of the Halifax Taxi Drivers Association recently to address some concerns.

HRM councillors David Hendsbee and Barry Dalrymple suggested it's time to turn the taxi industry over to the Utility and Review Board for regulation, and MacDonald said there have been discussions with both the UARB and province on that point. METRO



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Husband didn't need to refute abuse claims in hitman case: Crown

Murder for hire.
Rulings in peculiar Nova Scotia case have been garnering national media attention

The Crown attorney in the case of a woman who tried to have her husband killed by a hitman says he stands by his decision not to call the intended victim to counter her claims of abuse.

Senior Crown attorney Peter Craig said after reviewing evidence at trial he determined Michael Ryan's evidence wasn't necessary to refute the duress defence of his ex-wife Nicole Ryan, and that he still believes the Crown presented enough evidence to overcome it.

Last week, the Supreme Court of Canada ordered a stay of proceedings against Nicole Ryan, essentially leaving her free. At the same time, the court granted the Crown's appeal and overturned the acquittal verdict that was

reached in 2010.

Craig said Thursday the Supreme Court's decision to grant a stay is unusual and something that will be debated.

"It's unprecedented in terms of ever having been done before," he said in an interview. "I think there will be lots of discussion both academically and among reasonably informed members of the public about this decision."

The Supreme Court says Michael Ryan conducted a "reign of terror" against his ex-wife, basing its conclusions about him on the findings of fact made by the trial judge, who accepted Nicole Ryan's testimony "without question," as the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal noted.

In an interview this week, Michael Ryan denied he was abusive and questioned why the Crown never gave him a chance to tell his side of the story during the original trial in Digby.

Craig said he had other considerations to make when he prosecuted the case.

"I can understand why



Joel Pink, lawyer for Nicole Ryan (pictured), has said he has no doubt his client is telling the truth.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Michael Ryan would feel he's never had the opportunity to advance his side of the story, so to speak, but that's not what the Crown looks at when determining whether to call a witness in a criminal case," he said.

"I determined after reviewing the evidence at trial that his evidence wasn't necessary to refute the duress defence raised by Mrs. Ryan."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Michael Ryan, whose ex-wife hired a hitman to kill him, poses for a photograph in his home in Barrie, Ont. on Tuesday.
FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Finance minister weighs costs of balanced budget



Maureen MacDonald METRO FILE

Nova Scotia's finance minister says she's hearing from a variety of public and private organizations that the province's books shouldn't be balanced at any cost.

Maureen MacDonald said Thursday while it's still early in the public-consultation process, a consensus seems to be emerging that balancing the projected \$277-million deficit shouldn't be done through deep cuts to health care, education and

other public services.

MacDonald said she's hearing the message from a range of interests including chambers of commerce and advocacy groups.

While there are differing opinions on balancing the budget this year as promised, MacDonald said no one has said it has to be done.

"Nobody has hard and fast said it absolutely has to be," she said. "There's always that qualifier that it

shouldn't be at any cost and they are asking us to keep that in mind."

But MacDonald stopped short of saying the government would put off the balancing budget promise until next year, adding that the consultations would simply present her with options.

"Some people are saying that if the only way to balance the budget is by making deep cuts in health care, education and other import-

Conservatives

Progressive Conservative Leader Jamie Baillie said Maureen MacDonald's language indicates she's getting ready to break the government's promise to balance the books in this spring's budget.

ant services, then the government should be open to

putting off balancing in the coming year," she said.

Last month, MacDonald warned balancing the budget would be "challenging" in the current fiscal climate.

On Thursday she cited the Bank of Canada's latest statement that it had misjudged the strength of the Canadian economy, which grew only one per cent in the last three months and not at the 2.5 per cent rate expected.

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Centuries-old home. Move to begin Saturday

Movers are scheduled to begin the delicate, two-day task of moving a 249-year-old house through Halifax's streets in the dead of night Saturday.

Morris House, originally built as a surveyor's office by one of Halifax's founders, is bound for a new location in the city where it will be revitalized and turned into affordable housing for young adults.

A going-away party will be held Friday night outside the grey, wood-shingled house, which has been sitting in a parking lot near the waterfront since it was rescued from demolition in 2009.

At 3 a.m., when Halifax's streets are mostly deserted, the house will leave the lot and set off on a winding, three-kilo-



Morris House METRO FILE

metre voyage. It will trundle past Citadel Hill before coming to a rest some three hours later at the corner of Brunswick and Cogswell streets.

The house will remain there until 3 a.m. Sunday before starting down Gottingen Street en route to its final destination at the corner of Creighton and Charles streets.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Favours Argyle or Queens

Environment minister to run again, but needs new riding

Environment Minister Sterling Belliveau says he intends to run in the next provincial election.

However, Belliveau will have to be nominated in a new riding after his riding of Shelburne was split in two in an electoral boundaries

reorganization passed at the end of the fall session of the legislature.

Belliveau says his preference is to run in one of the two ridings that include parts of his old constituency — Argyle and Queens.

He isn't expressing a preference and says he is exploring all of his options with the respective NDP riding organizations.

Queens is currently held by Belliveau's caucus colleague Vicki Conrad.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Comedy fest. Lineup

Some big names are sure to spark big laughs this spring at the Halifax Comedy-Fest.

Scott Thompson, known for his time with comedy troupe Kids in the Hall, is on the docket for the 18th annual event, as well as Corner Gas's Brent Butt.

Also in the lineup is Caroline Rhea, Nikki Payne, Mark

Critch, John Wing and Debra DiGiovanni.



Scott Thompson HANDOUT

The festival will feature acts from across the globe, along with Canadian favourites, and runs from April 24 to 27 at various venues across the city.

A complete list of performers and schedule of events is available at halifax-comedyfest.ca.

METRO



Co-owners Greg Pothier, left, and Joseph Allen play a board game at their new hobby store, Games People Play. The store is located on Barrington Street.

HALEY RYAN/METRO

Let the games begin, Halifax

Anyone board? New hobby store hoping to roll in the customers

Quoted

"It's kind of weird.... It's like the gaming industry and the geeks are becoming popular."

Games People Play co-owner Joseph Allen



HALEY RYAN
halley.ryan@metronews.ca

These gamers are loud and proud.

Games People Play has only been open for a week at its 1587 Barrington St. location, but co-owner Joseph Allen said there are already a few regulars enjoying the unique atmosphere.

"Eighty per cent of our space is actually for gaming, for people to come in and

sit down and relax, where 20 per cent is retail, where we sell product," Allen said, adding the layout sets them apart from competitors like Strange Adventures.

A couple of years ago, Allen and fellow owner Greg Pothier realized there wasn't really a place to play games and interact with people for free.

Allen said a week's worth of sales are usually enough to pay rent at the heritage prop-

erty, and groups like Hal-Con and the Halifax Gaming Society kicked in funds as well.

Long tables take up most of the rectangular space, which features a comic corner with comfy armchairs and a station with Keurig coffee and snacks.

Anyone can drop in and use the in-store games for free, bring their own or buy games from the shelves, which include over a dozen types of Monopoly.

"Having a play area is very important because you can't really convince people to start a new hobby unless you show them how it's done," said Carlo Locsin, 21, a regular at the new shop.

Allen said the popularity of shows like The Big Bang Theory and superhero movies have taken geek culture out of basements and into the mainstream.

"We want to take the gaming ... scene out from the back of the walls and bring it out to the light and have a lot of people see," he said.

"Foster those relationships and friendships, and have the community grow even more."

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Getting the boot?

T.O. mayor to hear verdict Friday

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford will learn Friday morning if the courts have ejected him from office midway through his four-year term.

The news as to whether a divisional court panel has upheld or nullified a lower-court ruling that Ford

breached the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act will be made public at 10:30 a.m.

If Ford loses, Deputy Mayor Doug Holyday will take over temporarily and council will vote on how to pick the next mayor.

—TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Rob Ford
THE CANADIAN PRESS

'It's appalling'

Ontario boy, 9, fatally shot while watching TV

A nine-year-old boy was sitting in his living room watching TV when he was fatally shot in the head with a bullet fired from outside his house, police said Thursday.

Kesean Williams, a Grade

4 student, was shot Wednesday night and died hours later of his injuries in hospital. No arrests have been made yet, but police believe the house in Brampton, Ont., was targeted.

Kesean, his 15-year-old brother and his mother moved into that house last week, said Peel Regional Police Acting Supt. George Koekkoeck.

—THE CANADIAN PRESS

Missing Canadians

Weather hampers rescue attempt

A rescue flight on its way to a group of Canadians on a missing plane in Antarctica has had to turn around due to bad weather that isn't expected to improve until at least early Friday.

But those who know the pilot of the downed Twin

Otter say that if anyone would know how to get through, it would be Bob Heath. "He's a bit of a living legend up (north)," said friend Sebastien Seykora.

The airplane began transmitting signals from its emergency locator beacon early Wednesday. Aircraft tried twice to spot it in the mountainous area where it went down, but failed due to heavy cloud. —THE CANADIAN PRESS

Spence signs declaration opening new chapter for First Nations

Spence vs. Brazeau

Journalist captures Twitter tussle

Chief Theresa Spence and Senator Patrick Brazeau exchanged 140-character insults Thursday morning.

Spence was in hospital, but a tweet from the @ChiefTheresa Twitter account called Brazeau a "typical colonized Indian asshole" in response to his criticism of Idle No More.

The tweet has since been deleted, but a screenshot was captured by Saskatchewan reporter Jeremy Warren.

The pugilistic senator immediately hit back, referring to the comment as a "traditional angry victim speech."

A First Nations senator from Quebec and former chief of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, Brazeau has been an outspoken opponent of Spence and the Idle No More movement. He often criticizes First Nations governance for what he feels is a lack of accountability.

—LUKE SIMCOE/METRO ONLINE

Political struggle. Vow to improve conditions for aboriginals agreed upon by chiefs, federal opposition parties

Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence emerged from hospital Thursday to sign the First Nations declaration that ended her hunger protest after six long weeks — a period during which Stephen Harper barely uttered her name.

Indeed, for a crisis that just two weeks ago had the prime minister squarely at its centre, it seemed a weary and chaotic finale, one largely devoid of anti-Harper vitriol.

The Cree leader, who hadn't had solid food since Dec. 11, spent most of the day recovering in hospital, only to show up unannounced at a celebration that brought First Nations chiefs from across the country.

A chanting, drumming crowd greeted her at a downtown Ottawa hotel, where she thanked family, friends and supporters for their backing during the six chilly weeks she spent on Victoria Island, just upstream from Parliament Hill.

She suggested she now intends to step back from the political struggle.

"There you go, chiefs, you take over and I'll be part of the audience sometimes, so I'll be



Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, right, takes part in a celebration after ending her hunger strike. She sits with fellow hunger striker Raymond Robinson in Ottawa on Thursday after being released from hospital following an overnight stay. She was held for observation after she ended her six-week hunger protest. —SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

No sign of Harper

"Polls may come up and down ... To me, it's not about polls, it's about justice ... They just don't get it, frankly."

Interim Liberal leader Bob Rae on the Conservative government's reaction to requests from First Nations leaders to re-examine aboriginal issues.

watching you guys," Spence said, calling for unity among First Nations leaders.

"It's time to really stay together no matter what hardship that we go through, and no matter what the government intends to do to us to divide

us. Always remember that we're here together and we're here for our people, especially the youth."

Emissaries from federal opposition parties kept a low profile at the second ceremony, where Spence herself signed

the declaration that had been so painstakingly crafted to bring her protest to a conclusion.

The end came as other chiefs and federal opposition parties vowed to take up her cause of treaty implementation and improved conditions on reserves. And it followed careful negotiation by interim Liberal leader Bob Rae.

Rae said he was concerned some days ago that there was a risk of the whole effort "going off the rails" if Spence

didn't call a stop to her protest. He said he told Spence: "It's everyone's struggle. But no one should die."

The chiefs and the politicians signed the 13-point declaration committing them to seeking immediate improvements to native housing and education; a meeting of First Nations chiefs, the prime minister and Governor General; and full implementation of treaty and aboriginal rights within five years.

—THE CANADIAN PRESS

Guard was scolded for aiding Ashley Smith, inquiry hears

A correctional officer who scrambled to cut a ligature from the neck of a teenaged inmate as she turned dark purple was reprimanded for his efforts, an inquest into her death heard Thursday.

In fact, an emotional Blaine Phibbs testified, a prison manager warned him he could be formally disciplined or even charged criminally if he went into Ashley Smith's

cell again under similar circumstances.

"He told me there was no reason to go into the cell. As long as she was breathing, we were not to go into her cell," Phibbs said.

Video of the incident played for the inquest showed Phibbs and other guards entering Smith's segregation cell at the Grand Valley Institution in Kitch-

ener, Ont., about a month before she finally strangled herself.

Phibbs said he had difficulty cutting the ligature from her neck.

The apparent life-saving measures only brought rebuke. Management insisted that what had taken place was "borderline excessive use of force."

—THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hockey old-timers rescue woman, dogs from icy river

An old-timers hockey team hit the ice as darkness fell Wednesday, but they weren't chasing a puck.

The Old Dogs jumped into action and probably saved the lives of a woman and two dogs after they plunged into the water from a ledge of ice along B.C.'s Thompson River.

Team members were having a few beers with a clear view of the riverfront a

stone's throw away when they saw the woman and the dogs break through the ice.

"We were just trying to help the young lady out of the river when she went in," Bert Kant told the Kamloops Daily News while drying out after his January dip.

"I missed the Polar Bear Swim," he quipped, adding, "We can laugh because everything is OK."

Kathryn Easton was walking her brother's dog along the shore when the animal fell into the river. With another, smaller dog on her shoulders, she tried to rescue the canine on her own.

"We watched her go down," said Yvonne Johnson, another witness.

"That water's cold and it's running. It could have been a catastrophe." —THE CANADIAN PRESS

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India. Rape-and-murder trial starts behind closed doors in fast-track court

The trial of five men charged with the rape and murder of a 23-year-old student on a New Delhi bus began Thursday with opening arguments by the prosecution in a special fast-track court set up just weeks ago to handle sexual-assault cases.

A sixth suspect has claimed he is a juvenile and is expected to be tried in a juvenile court.

On Thursday, a magistrate separately rejected a petition by Subramanian Swamy, a prominent politician, that no leniency be shown toward the accused who claims to be a juvenile because of the brutal nature of the crime, said Jagdish Shetty, an aide to Swamy.

Gag order

The courtroom was closed to the public and the media — a routine move in Indian rape cases — even though defence lawyers had argued that since the victim is dead, the proceedings should be opened.

Magistrate Geetanjali Goel is expected to rule on the suspect's age on Jan. 28.

Since Friday is a public holiday in India, the next hearing in the case was set for Monday, when the defence will present its opening arguments.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

China. Censors slash 40 minutes of love scenes from the film Cloud Atlas

Nearly 40 minutes have been chopped from the film Cloud Atlas for Chinese audiences, deleting both gay and straight love scenes to satisfy censors despite a public that increasingly chafes at censorship.

China allows only 34 foreign films to be shown each year in its movie theatres, which don't have a classification system. All movies must be acceptable to adults and children of any age. Censors also target anything that portrays China or the Chinese in a negative light.

Citizens have recently become more outspoken, especially on social media, with

complaints about censorship of imported films as well as the home-grown movie industry and news media. Awkward cuts by the censors to the recent James Bond offering Skyfall, which opened there Monday, prompted calls for a review of the film-censorship system.

The cuts made to the 007 movie were widely reported in state-run media. They included the death of a Chinese security guard, references to prostitution in the Chinese territory of Macau and a character's line about having been tortured by Chinese security agents. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Military 'more powerful' with women: Pentagon

Front-line combat.

Lifting the U.S. ban on female fighters will take time to implement

Allowing women to serve in combat roles will strengthen the U.S. military's ability to win wars, Defence Secretary Leon Panetta said Thursday, shortly before his official announcement of the landmark lifting of the ban.

"Our military is more capable, and our force is more powerful, when we use all of the great diverse strengths of the American people," Panetta said.

President Barack Obama supports the Pentagon's decision and believes the country should continue to remove "unnecessary gender-based barriers to service," White House spokesman Jay Carney told reporters.

The decision presents a daunting challenge to military leaders who will have to decide which, if any, jobs they believe should be open only to men.

Women comprise about 14 per cent of the 1.4 million active military personnel, and more than 280,000 women have been sent to Iraq, Afghanistan or to jobs in neighbouring nations in support of the wars. Of the more than 6,600 U.S. service members who have been killed, 152 have been women.

There long has been opposition to putting women in combat, based on questions of whether they have the necessary strength and stamina for certain jobs, or whether their presence might hurt unit co-



There are 48 women presently working on the front lines in Afghanistan. PAULA BRONSTEIN/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Problem of respect

Ban tied to sexual assault

The top U.S. military officer says he believes the rise in sexual assaults in the military can be linked to the longstanding ban on women serving in combat.

Gen. Martin Dempsey said Thursday the problem is due partly to the military's separate classes — male "warriors" versus the rest.

Dempsey says the issue is more complicated than that but he indicates the disparity between the roles of men and women has created a psychology that lends itself to disrespect.

hesion.

"Every person in today's military has made a solemn commitment to fight and, if necessary, to die, for our nation's defence," Panetta said. "We owe it to them to allow them to pursue every avenue ... for which they are fully prepared and qualified. Their career success and their specific opportunities should be based solely on their ability to successfully carry out an assigned mission. Everyone deserves that chance." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Pastor who helped pair flee refuses to testify, is held

Same-sex custody dispute. Church leader refused to answer questions about others involved in aiding flight of woman and her daughter in 2009

A pastor convicted of helping a woman and her daughter involved in a custody dispute with the woman's former lesbian partner was taken into

federal custody Thursday after refusing to answer questions about others involved in the flight posed by the grand jury investigating the custody case.

Before surrendering his belt and wallet and being handcuffed by court officers, Kenneth Miller, of Virginia, apologized to U.S. District Court Judge William Sessions for burdening the court, but he said his religious beliefs prevented him from complying with the court's order that he testify about others involved in the 2009 flight of Lisa Miller and

Will he testify?

- One of Kenneth Miller's lawyers said he didn't believe incarcerating Miller would induce him to agree to testify, but the judge said there was no way to find out unless Miller spent time in jail.

her daughter, Isabella. The Millers are not related. Lisa Miller and Isabella are believed to be in Nicaragua. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Fire and ice in the Windy City

Ice forms on the side of a burned-out warehouse and street lamp Thursday in Chicago. Local firefighters fought the fire in freezing temperatures. **CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Dolours Price. Veteran IRA bomber dead

An Irish Republican Army veteran who accused Sinn Féin party chief Gerry Adams of involvement in IRA killings and bombings has been found dead in her home, police and politicians said Thursday.

Dolours Price, 61, was a member of the Provisional IRA unit that launched the very first car-bomb attacks on London in 1973. She became one of Irish republicanism's most trenchant critics of Adams and his conversion to political compromise.

Police said her death Wednesday night at her home in Malahide, north of Dublin, was possibly the result of a drug overdose and foul play was not suspected.

In interviews, Price repeatedly described Adams as her IRA commander in Catholic west Belfast in the early 1970s when the outlawed group was secretly abducting, executing and burying more than a dozen suspected informers in unmarked graves. Adams rejects the charges. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Dolours Price, left, and her sister Marian attend a civil-rights demonstration in Belfast, Northern Ireland, in this June 4, 1972, photo. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE**

Abbas seeks meeting with Israeli centrists

Stalled. Talks on terms of Palestinian statehood frozen since Netanyahu took office four years ago

The Palestinian president wants to meet with newly elected Israeli parliament members to lay out his views on peace, hoping a political surge of centrists will provide an opening to resume long-stalled negotiations on a Palestinian state, a senior aide said Thursday.

President Mahmoud Abbas' main target appears to be Yair Lapid, leader of the moderate Yesh Atid (There is a Future) party, who is expected to be influential in setting the priorities of the next government.

Lapid has said he wants Israel to make a serious push for peace, though it is unclear how far he will press the issue in coalition negotiations with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. In recent public appearances, he has barely breached the issue, focusing instead on domestic economic concerns.

Quoted

"We will also insist on an immediate start to peace negotiations, not just to get into negotiations but in order to reach a final status agreement with the Palestinians."

Yael German, an incoming legislator in Yesh Atid, insisting her party is serious about restarting peace negotiations.

Lapid has campaigned on a domestic agenda that includes ending draft exemptions and government stipends for ultra-Orthodox Jews. But two incoming legislators from his party said Thursday that making peace with the Palestinians is just as important to him. Lapid might be forced to choose between those two issues because it seems nearly impossible to form a coalition that will deal with both issues.

Netanyahu is a hardliner and may balk at excluding right-wing parties from his coalition in order to move forward with peace talks.

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Freed Frenchwoman gets hero's welcome

Frenchwoman Florence Cassez is kissed by her mother Charlotte after landing at Roissy airport, north of Paris, Thursday. Cassez, who spent seven years in prison in Mexico on kidnapping charges, returned to a hero's welcome in Paris, declaring she had been cleared by the Mexican court that ordered her freed. However, the justices who freed her pointedly did not rule on her guilt or innocence, but said the violations of due process, the right to consular assistance and evidentiary rules in her case were so grievous that they invalidated the original guilty verdict against her. Cassez was arrested in 2005 and convicted of helping her Mexican then-boyfriend run a kidnap gang.

CHRISTOPHE ENA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



An anti-government protester prepares to throw a petrol bomb at riot police during clashes in Bahrain on Thursday. HASAN JAMALI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Strategic nation

Unrest in Bahrain

The Arab monarchies of the Gulf have remained largely untouched by the spirit of revolt, with the exception of Bahrain, where Saudi Arabia and its allies have helped put down an uprising by disenfranchised Shiites.

On Thursday, riot police in Bahrain fired tear gas and stun grenades at protesters.

The clashes were relatively small but highlight divides among Bahrain's Shiite-led opposition over whether to accept the Sunni monarchy's offer for dialogue.

Appeals to open talks have received cautious endorsement from main Shiite opposition groups in the strategic nation, home to the U.S. navy's 5th Fleet. Other anti-government factions oppose dialogue, claiming the Sunni leadership is unwilling to give up power.

More than 55 have been killed in the unrest.

Long, hard struggle

"I think those who think of democracy as a Viagra pill that could solve their dysfunction ... are not on the right path."



Saudi Prince Turki Al Faisal, a former intelligence chief and ambassador to the United States, skeptical about the idea that Western-style democracy is a cure-all for a nation's problems.

Winners and losers

- Qatar has emerged as perhaps the biggest winner of the Arab Spring, using its oil and natural-gas wealth to spread its influence by helping rebels in Libya and Syria and propping up the current government in Egypt.
- Saudi Arabia has felt more vulnerable. It has its own restive Shiite population and, despite its oil riches, youth unemployment is high.

Arab Spring: Seed of hope or sure sign of collapse?

World Economic Forum. Question at the forefront of high-power talks

The convulsions of the Arab world are taking centre stage at this year's World Economic Forum gathering in Davos, Switzerland, where leaders and experts are preoccupied with a bewildering mix of high hopes, deep disappointments and grave dangers.

Along the way, a divide seems to be emerging between those impressed with the once-unimaginable people power in long-repressive countries — and others troubled by poverty, corruption, instability and the rise of political Islam and jihadi insurgencies.

Asked whether democracy was prevailing in his native Egypt, former Arab League secretary-general Amr Moussa hedged, saying democracy "is not only the ballot box. It is the respect of human rights, for rights of women, separation of powers.... This meaning

of democracy we have not yet achieved."

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, speaking on the same BBC-sponsored panel, saw the glass half full.

"If we had this meeting two years ago in Davos, no one would imagine there would be elected presidents in Cairo, in Tunisia, in Libya, in Yemen," he said.

Yet also at issue is the success of political Islam, which has both liberal and repressive expressions around the world.

More Arabs are politically engaged than ever before, demanding to be heard. But it can be a double-edged sword, breeding instability and even violence when expectations cannot be met.

"People want things now. People want jobs now. People want increased wages now," said Tunisian economist Mustapha Kamel Nablî. At the same time, political players are not necessarily responsible or capable enough to respond, he said. "This is not sustainable."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Military

Canadian help for French Mali mission extended

The Harper government's commitment of a giant Royal Canadian Air Force transport plane in support of the French military action in Mali has been extended to a month from one week.

Defence Minister Peter MacKay and Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird issued a joint statement Thursday saying the C-17 Globemaster will continue to ferry war materials and vehicles between France and the Malian capital of Bamako until Feb. 15.

They emphasized the aircraft will not be part of combat operations.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Politics

White House slams North Korean nuclear-test plan

North Korea's plan to conduct a third nuclear test is "needlessly provocative" and will only increase its isolation, the White House said Thursday, as the U.S. expanded its financial sanc-

tions. Defence Secretary Leon Panetta said he has seen no outward sign that North Korea will follow through on its plan to conduct a test. But that doesn't mean preparations aren't underway.

"They have the capability ... to conduct these tests in a way that make it very difficult to determine whether or not they are doing it," Panetta said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Little progress in Syria, says French foreign minister

The French foreign minister is suggesting that the fall of Syrian President Bashar Assad is not imminent — a stark admission by France, one of the most ardent supporters of the Syrian rebels.

France was the first country to recognize the coalition fighting Assad as the only legitimate representative of the Syrian people. On Monday, France hosts a conference to support the coalition and to encourage donors to deliver on their pledges.

Laurent Fabius acknowledged Thursday that progress in Syria has ground to a halt. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Westerners told to get out of Libya

Benghazi. Three European countries urging their citizens to evacuate eastern Libyan city due to imminent threat

Britain, Germany and the Netherlands urged their citizens Thursday to immediately leave the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi in response to what was described as an imminent threat against Westerners.

The warnings come a day after U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton testified to Congress about the September attack on the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi that killed four Americans, including the



Hillary Clinton GETTY IMAGES

ambassador to Libya. They also come as French troops battle al-Qaida-linked militants in Mali, and follow the deaths of dozens of foreigners taken hostage by Islamist extremists in Algeria — though it remained unclear if those events were linked to the European nations' concerns about Libya.

The foreign ministries of the three countries issued statements variously describing the threat as specific and imminent but none gave details.

Germany and Britain urged their nationals still in Benghazi to leave "immediately" while a Dutch spokesman said that "staying in this area is not to be advised." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Convicted thief loses three of his sticky fingers

Authorities carry out the court-ordered amputation of the fingers of a convicted thief in a public square in the southern Iranian city of Shiraz, Thursday. The 29-year-old man was convicted for being part of a 10-member gang that carried out burglaries in the city and on charges of having "illegal relations," according to the Mehr news agency. He was sentenced to the amputation of three fingers, the confiscation of his property and three years in prison. Iran's legal system, based on Shariah, provides for amputation of limbs for theft. Mehr did not identify the man. MOHSEN TAVARRO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gaza. Teens graduate from Hamas military program

Taught to love jihad

"My officer taught me the values of courage, sacrifice and love of jihad, as well as some battle tactics."

Radwan Wasfi, 15

a 29-year-old national security officer who teaches in the program. It is a weekly elective

that is offered in all Gaza high schools.

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Springtime for sale

A gallery assistant at Bonhams auction house in London, England, admires an antique fire screen featuring a display of blue-mountain swallowtail butterflies, which is expected to fetch about \$2,800 US in the forthcoming Gentleman's Library Sale. The auction includes an eclectic mix of rare items such as a pygmy hippo skeleton, a cigar that belonged to Winston Churchill and a M19 spy catalogue. OLI SCARFF/GETTY IMAGES

App lets Android users cut down on roaming fees

Telecom. Canadian-made Hushed provides second numbers short-term, so travellers can call locally

Quoted

"It acts like a real phone number. You can get calls, SMS and we're working on free Hushed calls to other Hushed members."

Justin Shimoon, co-founder and CEO of Ottawa-based AffinityClick Inc.

Just-released, made-in-Canada technology gives Android users the ability to buy anonymous phone numbers for a day, a week or a few months.

"Ultimately, everybody in the world should have a second phone number," Justin Shimoon, co-founder and CEO of AffinityClick Inc. of Ottawa told Torstar News Service on Thursday.

Shimoon and partner Timo Mika Glasser launched Hushed, the Android answer to Apple's Burner application, on Wednesday. Unlike Burner, which is available only in North America, Hushed is available in 40 countries.

That means someone in Toronto could buy a Japanese phone number and use it as a local number while travelling in Japan instead of buying roaming packages.

Companies, Shimoon said, have bought 50 or 100 phone numbers to turn into global of-

fices or for their employees' travelling mobile phones.

The Hushed numbers work on data networks, rather than phone lines. The app, available through the Google Play app store, is free, but each phone number costs \$1.99.

Shimoon, for example, bought a Swedish number so his Swedish relatives can make local calls to talk to him in Ottawa. For his annual trip to Lake Placid, he buys a New York number.

Circumventing telecommunications companies' roaming charges is "a big consideration" for buying a second short-term phone number, but having a number for Craigslist advertising or for online dating sites are also key reasons, Shimoon said. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Creditor claims. Mediation to divvy up Nortel assets fails to reach agreement

Efforts to divide up nearly \$9 billion in assets from the now-bankrupt Nortel Networks Corp. ended Thursday without an agreement.

A spokesman for the talks says Ontario Chief Justice Warren Winkler, who was leading the proceedings, has concluded that further efforts at mediation were no longer worthwhile.

The negotiations began in Toronto on Jan. 14 and were supposed to conclude that week. They were extended

twice. This was the third attempt at settling claims against the former telecom manufacturing giant's business lines and intellectual property by about 100 creditors around the world, including companies in 20 countries on every continent except Antarctica.

The myriad of creditors include Nortel pensioners, disabled former employees, bond holders, trade creditors and governments.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Immigration. New visa program aims to attract startups, entrepreneurs

A new program designed to lure startup companies and entrepreneurs to Canada will launch in April. The startup visa will be limited to those who already have the backing of a venture capital firm in Canada.

Immigration Minister Jason Kenney says it's aimed at enticing the best and brightest minds around the world to start new businesses in Canada. He only ex-

By the numbers

2,750

The government will grant a maximum of 2,750 visas a year for each of the five years of the pilot program.

pects to see a few hundred people come through the program in the first year. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



I call it sharing,
not bragging.

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Security breach. U.K. regulator fines Sony for PlayStation attack

British regulators have fined Sony about \$396,000 US for failing to prevent a 2011 cyberattack on its PlayStation Network, which put millions of users' personal information — including names, addresses, birth dates and account passwords — at risk.

Britain's Information Commissioner's Office said Thursday that security measures in place at the time "were simply not good enough." It said the attack could have been prevented if software had been up to date, while passwords were also not secure.

David Smith, deputy commissioner and director of data protection, acknowledged that the fine for a "serious breach of the Data Protection Act" was "clearly substantial" but said that the office makes "no apologies" for that.

"There's no disguising that this is a business that should have known better," he said in a statement. "It is a company that trades on its technical



A man plays Sony's PS3 during the Tokyo Game Show last fall. Sony has been fined by British officials over a 2011 cyber-attack. GETTY IMAGES FILE

expertise, and there's no doubt in my mind that they had access to both the technical knowledge and the resources to keep this information safe."

Smith called the case "one of the most serious ever reported" to the data regulator.

Sony, which has previously apologized for the data breach, said Thursday it "strongly disagrees" with the ruling and plans to appeal.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



McDonald's says the Alaskan pollock used in its Filet-O-Fish sandwiches will come from suppliers with sustainable fishing practices. The move reflects growing concern among consumers about the source of their seafood. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

There's nothing fishy about these sandwiches

Sustainable sourcing. Ecolabel will certify that Alaskan pollock in McDonald's Filet-O-Fish is from ethical suppliers

McDonald's says it will be the first U.S. national restaurant chain to carry a label from a group that certifies sustain-

able fishing practices.

The blue "ecolabel" from the Marine Stewardship Council certifies that the Alaskan pollock used in McDonald's Filet-O-Fish sandwiches comes from suppliers with sustainable fishing practices.

Major retail chains including Walmart and Whole Foods already use the council's label. The non-profit group is paid a royalty fee from companies that use its label. For Mc-

Donald's, that means the fee would be based on sales of its fish offerings, such as the Filet-O-Fish and the Fish McBites that will be launched as a limited-time offer next month.

The Marine Stewardship Council, which has its international base in London, has about 300 fisheries in its program, representing 12 to 14 per cent of the world's fisheries. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Household debt

More Canadians keeping up with loan payments

Canadians are paying off their debts faster, with the number of those more than three months behind on loan payments dropping to a record low, according to a report Thursday from Equifax Canada.

The latest National Credits Trends study by the credit-monitoring firm found the percentage of unpaid non-

mortgage debt past-due more than 90 days was 1.19 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2012, a slight decrease from 1.22 per cent in the third quarter.

Nadim Abdo, Equifax's vice-president of consulting solutions, says these rates have been declining since the pre-recession level in 2007 when it was at 1.75 per cent.

"Part of it I would attribute to people looking after their credit and not taking on too much credit," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CRTC

Carriers to allow 911 texts for disabled users

Canadian wireless carriers must make changes to their networks and systems to support 911 emergency text messages from hearing- and speech-impaired persons, the country's federal telecom regulator said Thursday.

The service would only be provided to the hearing- and speech-impaired who have

pre-registered for it with their wireless carrier, which must make it available within 12 months, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission said.

The CRTC said access to emergency telecommunications services is critical to safety and the hearing- and speech-impaired don't have full access to the 911 service.

There will be no need for hearing- or speech-impaired persons to try to speak when making a 911 call.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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autism foundation Surfers Healing. Through T-shirts designed by the likes of Raine Maida and George Stroumboulopoulos, money raised through sales helps send autistic kids to a therapeutic family surf camp in Cali.

2 Superbaugh. The Super Bowl between the San Francisco 49ers and Baltimore Ravens will see two brothers coaching against each other for the first time in Super Bowl history! John Harbaugh runs the Ravens; his younger brother, Jim, mans the 49ers. Jim, ever the strategic thinker, must be saying to John, "Yo, bro, remember I'm your kid brother. Take it easy. It's only a game."

3 Beth Reeks. Further evidence the Internet is the place to get your start: 17-year-old Beth Reeks has signed a three-book deal with Random House after her young-adult romance *The Kissing Booth* became a hit online. The book will now be published in paperback this spring. Reeks, the new teen queen of romance, is a young E.L. James — minus the erotica.

4 Red Pashmina. This grassroots campaign that started out of Peterborough, Ont., to empower and raise money for women in Afghanistan, has now attracted the attention of the UN. The two women behind the bright red scarves, Maryam Monsef and Jessica Melnik, are invited to speak at a United Nations summit in N.Y. on the status of women in March.

5 Obama. Beyoncé sang a rousing — though apparently lip-synched — rendition of the national anthem, but the real star Monday on the Capitol steps was Barack Obama, who publicly began his second term as president at his inauguration in front of 800,000 spectators chanting "O-ba-mal!" "Now, more than ever, we must do these things as one nation, as one people," he said. He has four years left to make it happen.

6 Gretzky + Leafs? Social media went nuts this week when a show on The Fan 590 discussed the rumour Wayne Gretzky might be taking over as president of the Toronto Maple Leafs, a position left vacant after the recent firing of Brian Burke. Now if this ever happened, wow. If Gretzky can't save the Leafs, no one can.

7 Arisa Cox. Many of you might remember her from the 2001 Canadian reality series *The Lofters* (I do). So this week when Arisa Cox was named host for the first Big Brother Canada, which debuts Feb. 27th on Slice, it made perfect sense. After all, she knows exactly what it's like to live 24-7 with other strangers while the camera watches.

8 Kutcher at Macworld. Next week is the Macworld/iWorld conference in San Francisco, and Ashton Kutcher will be there to speak about what it's like playing Steve Jobs in the biopic on the Apple icon that is slated for April release. The best part would be if Kutcher actually showed up in character as Jobs. Now that would go viral.

9 Miss O. The Oprah Effect hit Western Canada as she made appearances in Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver, talking about everything from the weather — bloody cold! — to the lessons she's learned in life. "Every day you get to paint on the canvas that is your life," she told a sold-out crowd Monday night at Rexall Place in Edmonton. Who's better at motivating than Oprah?

10 Butt Out. This week is Non-Smoking Week in Canada, a campaign that has been running for 30 years. It's great to see so many people talking about #nonsmoking on Twitter. I quit almost 13 years ago. If you're thinking about stopping, go for it. You can do it. Don't let nicotine rule your life.

11 Man bandz. When boy bands grow up, they lose a little hair up top, gain a little more on their backs — and reunite sometimes. Yes, NKOTB, 98 Degrees and Boyz II Men are teaming up this spring and stopping in Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto. As Old Kid — er, New Kid — Donnie Wahlberg said in a statement: "Ladies, we're coming for you." Yes, it won't be girls this time.

12 Steve Nash. Captain Canada was given a loud ovation Sunday during player introductions at the ACC in Toronto. But then he and his Lakers played flat (again) in a loss to the Raptors. There are those who still wish he had signed with the Raptors during the off-season. But it's become apparent a 38-year-old Nash in the twilight of his career might not have been the right ending for this national treasure.

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1 **OCD4SH.** I Mother Earth's Brian Byrne is raising awareness about his OCD4SH campaign, a collaboration between his clothing company OCD Collective and the

I've got worms ... you want some?



TSVANGIRAYI MUKWAZHI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tastes like chicken?

Mopane worms a rare delicacy

Sihle Nkomo begins to prepare harvested mopane worms at her home in Gwanda, Zimbabwe.

In Zimbabwe, as well as most parts of southern Africa, mopane worms are a staple part of the diet in rural areas and are considered a delicacy in the cities. They can be eaten dry, as crunchy as potato chips, or cooked and drenched in sauce.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gastronomical goodness

- A Zimbabwean nutritionist, Marlon Chidemo, says the worms are high in healthy nutrients and contain three times the amount of protein as beef.
- He says eating worms is less taxing on the environment than consuming beef because it takes far fewer leaves to produce worms than it does feed to produce the same amount of beef.

Slinging slugs

Get to know the quality of grubs

At the local market, mopane worms are quite popular with residents who buy a cup or two of them and eat them immediately.

The market is abuzz with activity, with most stalls strategically displaying the delicacy so people cannot miss them. Vendors offer free samples. The mopane worms are graded according to size and the area where they were harvested.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mopane around

- Dried mopane worms have become a multimillion-dollar industry, even exported to countries like South Africa and Botswana. They can be found in African restaurants in Paris.
- The worm is the large caterpillar of the *Gonimbrasia belina* species. It got its name from chomping the leaves of mopane trees.

Worth Mentioning

J.J. Abrams set to direct next instalment of Star Wars, to be released in 2015

Another universe of sci-fi fans has been put in the hands of J.J. Abrams.

According to multiple trade reports, J.J. Abrams is set to direct the next instalment of *Star Wars*, which Disney has said will be *Epi-*

sode 7 and due out in 2015. Disney bought *Star Wars* maker Lucasfilm last month for \$4.06 billion.

The Emmy-award-winning director has also captained the reboot of *Star Trek* for rival studio Paramount Pictures, with the next instalment in that series, *Star Trek: Into Darkness*, set to hit theatres May 17.

Citing unnamed sources, the news was reported earlier by Hollywood trade outlets *The Wrap*, *The Hollywood Reporter* and *Daily Variety*.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Twitter

@corinnehooper: rip to the little boy who died in timberlea, hate when accidents happen so close to home :(

@JoelTheBassMan: We as a community will grieve. Then we will demand answers and change for our infrastructure. #Timberlea

@IanRobinsonPA: The Halifax Mooseheads remain the #1 team in Canada since November, wow! #enjoyingtheride

@Cinderjewel: Frozen in Halifax, my car starter wouldn't even start the car for me had to start it myself! #facenear-frozeoff #deadly #helloantartica

@minastefan: I have so much lingerie to wear to @The_Sex_Show in Halifax...I hope I get a chance to wear it all! ;)

@kathleenemily88: I'd complain about the feels-like-minus-24-degree weather, but I knew what I was getting into when I decided to stay in #Halifax.



Jason Statham stars in *Parker* — a movie without a lot of payoff. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD
CROUSE AND
MARK BRESLIN



The heist goes all wrong

Bad + Bad = Bad. Steve Gow joins Richard Crouse this week to help him call out *Parker* for being a mistake-ridden flop of a film

Richard: Steve, the most shocking thing about *Parker* is that Jason Statham has hair in the opening scene. His usually close-cropped do is hidden under a wig that makes him look a bit like George Clooney's English brother. Other than that, this is as by-the-book as it gets. Did you buy into the story at all?

Steve: Not really. But as shocking as Statham is brandishing a wig as Donald E. Westlake's popular revenge-seeking character, he wasn't half as unconvincing as Jennifer Lopez when she pops up as the desperate, danger-seeking real estate agent. Was that bad casting or just a bad character?

RC: Her character is baffling. As a pseudo-love interest and almost co-conspirator, she's as grating as her co-star Nick Nolte's voice. If an Emery board could speak, it would sound like the rasp Nolte's vocal chords produce these days. For me, though, the moral of the movie is really skewed. The movie is so intent on selling the idea that the vengeful killer is really a good guy that a character at the end actually wonders if he is some kind of angel. Could it be that in this world bad + bad = good?

SG: I suppose Jason Statham is today's ideal mainstream anti-hero. After all, as mediocre as most of his films are, director Taylor Hackford is at least consistent in delivering what Statham does best — look sinister and kick butt. However, as absurdly indestructible as he is here, the film is too morose to be much fun.

RC: Statham is consistent,

Synopsis

After a daring robbery goes bad, thief *Parker* (Jason Statham) is double-crossed and left for dead. But because the movie is called *Parker*, he doesn't succumb to the gunshot wounds. Instead, he vows to put things right between him and the gang who cheated him out of his \$200,000 split of the loot. "If you make a deal, both sides have to honour it, otherwise there's chaos," he

says. "And I won't let chaos take over my life." Except that things get chaotic when he hatches an elaborate plan, involving his real estate agent (Jennifer Lopez), to get vengeance and his money.

Star ratings:

- Richard: ●●●●●
- Steve: ●●●●●

I'll give you that. He has two characters: Statham Character number one in which he plays a loner with a past who must protect a loved one and Statham Character number two, which is the loner with a past who must protect a youthful innocent. Here he's playing number one. The loved one is money, although there are a number of other characters that could easily have taken the place of the greenbacks.

SG: I agree. Concentrating on a compelling sidekick almost surely would've helped solve the questionably ineffectual supporting cast here.

One last thing — what kind of a name is *Parker* anyhow? That lame moniker sounds like Statham should be serving high tea and crumpets to the Crawley family on *Downton Abbey*, not cracking the skulls of crooked criminals.

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2 SCENE

Hoult: Undead man talking

Warm Bodies. Actor shares what it's like to take on a role that requires only one facial expression



NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Nicholas Hoult has tackled trying to get the girl when you're an awkward tween (in *About a Boy*), a ruthless high-schooler (in TV's *Skins*) and a blue-haired mutant (in *X-Men: First Class*). But those challenges pale in comparison to *Warm Bodies*, in which he tries to win over a girl (Teresa Palmer) despite the fact that he's a flesh-eating zombie.

How tough is it doing a role that's basically one facial expression for most of the film?

Surprisingly easy, actually (laughs). Narrows down your options and what you have to do at work, and not a lot of dialogue to learn, which is beautiful. But yeah, I read the script and I was like, "This could be a cool film," and then I was like, "Oh, it's kind of tricky, though, isn't it? You don't get to say a lot, and you've got to move and act like a zombie, but you've also got to have this audience care for you and want you to succeed and have this girl care for you enough and fall for you, and there's a lot to do." With Teresa, it was just basically watching her do scenes the whole time, her just doing monologue after monologue and then I'd go, "Yeah, keep you safe. Hungry. Eat, whatever."

Have you heard every zombie joke in the world at this point?

You know what, I've made a few terrible ones myself. I've said, like, "Oh, he's a

character I really liked and wanted to bring to life." Idiot. I said of the scenes with me and Rob Corddry, "I found it really difficult not to corpse" (which is British slang for laughing during a scene). So I've made a few terrible zombie jokes, but I haven't actually been on the receiving end of that many so far.

OK, zombies versus vampires. Where do you stand? Who would win in a fight? Or the transition from vampire to zombie time?

As far as pop culture.

You know what? I'm trying to think. Aside from *Twilight*, what other vampire films have there been particularly recently? That's the prominent one. To be honest with you, I would probably have to go with the zombie thing just because I really like *Shaun of the Dead* and *Zombieland* and those sort of things, and *28 Days Later* and stuff, so I think I'd go for the zombie —



Nicholas Hoult finds the apple of his undead eye in *Warm Bodies*. HANDOUT

and not just because I played one in this film.

After having done this film, do you think you'd have trouble getting excited about doing a more traditional romantic comedy?

I don't know. I mean, I'm a sucker for a rom-com. You know, you feel good and you get all gooey. But I wouldn't want to do one

of those ones that's very run of the mill, out of the box, off you go, pay \$10 to go and see it and then sit there and nothing new happens. So it's tricky. I'd like to be able to do all types of films. Action, drama, romance, all of them.

I don't think anyone's going to try to stop you.
So far. Not with force yet,

anyway.

Just this year you've got films in several different genres coming out.

Yeah, I've got a fairy tale family adventure movie, *Jack the Giant Slayer*. There's mild peril. There's giants that want to eat humans, so you know, I wouldn't take a really young kid to it.



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Jason Momoa stars in *Bullet to the Head*, opening next Friday. GETTY IMAGES

Jason Momoa relishes getting a bona fide Rocky sucker punch

Bullet to the Head.

Brawly actor isn't a stranger to tough guy roles, but even he was star-struck working with Sylvester Stallone

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

A glance at Jason Momoa's IMDB page reveals that he is best known for playing roles described as a "vengeful barbarian warrior" or "powerful warlord." The burly six-foot-four-inch actor is famous for roles in *Conan the Barbarian* and *Game of Thrones* and often plays tough guys.

Next up he plays a muscle-bound mercenary in *Bullet to the Head*, an action flick the Hollywood Reporter called "beefy, brainless fun."

It's another case of type-casting, perhaps, but it did give him the chance to go mano-a-mano with one of the masters of the genre, Sylvester Stallone.

"You can't say enough good things about Stallone," says the Hawaiian-born hunk. "Truly, he is an icon. A legend, and so good at what he does."

Momoa even went through a special initiation rite courtesy of the superstar.

While shooting an epic fight scene on the film's New Orleans set, the older actor suggested he "tune me up" with a couple of real looking hits. Promising to pull his punches, Stallone instead landed a "monstrous" knock to the younger actor's side. Second take, same thing — "He just crumbled me," Momoa says — and that's the shot that made it into the film.

"He got me a couple of times," Momoa says. "He's the old bull. It's fun to get in there. I'm 30 years younger than him,

so it's cool. Rocky punching me in the ribs. It's like a shout from the rock."

But how does someone raise a family when their day job is pretending to decapitate people on screen? Momoa, who has a young daughter and son with actress Lisa Bonet, says his family always comes to visit when he's working.

"My daughter was actually on set when I ripped a guy's throat out on *Game of Thrones*," he says. "It's hilarious. She was with the wardrobe lady, knitting. I said, 'Are you OK sweetie?' She said, 'Yeah Papa,' and went on knitting."

He admits it's an unusual way to raise the kids and when they get older it might be more difficult.

"School's pretty expensive," he says. "I may as well get a teacher and bring them with us. I'd rather have my kids going to the Louvre than learning about it in a book."



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TV picks

True stories of brainwashing: This week on TV

Viewers can catch up on the new comedy series 1600 Penn, about the First Family of the U.S., with Friday's back-to-back episodes. In the first, President Gilchrist (Bill Pullman) and his generals hold a group-therapy session while his wife (Jenna Elfman) does some damage control. In the next installment, the president hosts a ball for a cranky senator and son Skip (Josh Gad) wants to attend the bash with a fetching mailroom clerk. (Citytv)

Brainwashed is a new series profiling the true stories of those who've been coerced into committing extreme acts. In this second installment on Friday, Predator Prophet, we learn of a single mom who fell in love with a self-proclaimed Mormon Prophet and became his "spiritual wife." He eventually persuaded her to sell her possessions, give up her children and commit adultery. But even when he was imprisoned, she wasn't convinced to leave him. (History)

Maroon 5 frontman and The Voice judge Adam Levine makes another appearance on Saturday Night Live, but this time as host, not musical guest. The latter role will be filled out by Compton, Calif.-bred rapper Kendrick Lamar, who's earned rave reviews for his latest album, good kid, m.A.A.d city. (Global)

Paul Merton's Adventures follows the British comedian as he visits fascinating spots around the world. In



Liam McIntyre as Spartacus.
HANDOUT

the debut episode Saturday, he boards the biggest luxury ocean liner in the world and tours the Caribbean. Along the way, he gets lost on a reef in Mexico and meets the Jamaican dogsled team as well as a ferocious tiger. (Discovery World HD)

Awards season fever continues with the live broadcast of The 19th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards, which honour performances in television and film on Sunday. This year's SAG Life Achievement Award recipient is Dick Van Dyke. He'll receive the honour from Carl Reiner and Alec Baldwin at the Los Angeles Shrine. Other presenters include Jeff Daniels, Neil Patrick Harris, Nicole Kidman and Julianna Margulies. (Global)

Starz unveils the final installment in its Spartacus gladiator saga Sunday. Spartacus: War of the Damned sees the titular character (Liam McIntyre) continuing to win battles with his rebel army and freed slaves after the defeat of Roman commander Gaius Claudius Glaber. (The Movie Network, Movie Central)

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Knock, knock: You have two children

Seed. Sperm donor tracked down by his kids on new TV show

JON
TATTRIE
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What would happen if a care-free bachelor answered his front door and discovered he was father to a nine-year-old boy and a teenage girl?

The question occurred to Joseph Raso when a friend became pregnant via a sperm bank. Fascinated by the process of choosing a stranger to be the biological father to your child, he wondered what it would be like if the donor entered into your life unexpectedly.

"How do kids change you? And what if it went zero to 60 and suddenly you have a nine-year-old?" he says. "How does it affect the donor and the other families?"

Seed was born. It's a TV show about Harry, whose bachelor bliss has long been funded by regular deposits at the sperm bank. One day, one of those donations learns how to hack a computer to find out who his biological father is — and knocks on Harry's door. Soon enough, a teenage girl follows, along with a woman pregnant with another of Harry's donations.

For Harry, the challenge is the tug of war between his desire to be with his biological children and his desire to pick up hot women at the bar.

One of Harry's entanglements is Rose, a beautiful, neurotic single woman whose date with the sperm bank leads to an accidental relationship with Harry. "From that point forward, their lives



Seed airs on City starting Monday, Feb. 4. You can watch the premiere online at the City website starting this Monday.

HANDOUT

are entwined," says Carrie-Lynn Neales, who plays Rose.

"She's just wildly insecure," she adds during a break in filming. Rose wants a child, but doesn't want a father to the child. She wants to be single and independent, but wants a relationship with an amazing guy called Aaron.

When asked if bar-tending Harry is typical of the guys she knows, Neales laughs and tries to compose an answer

Quoted

"I see Rose with the baby and the struggle and chaos of learning to be a mother. The further we go into it, the further those relationships can take off."

Carrie-Lynn Neales on her hopes to develop Rose in future seasons.

that won't offend any of her friends. "You'll find aspects of Harry and Aaron in this age bracket," she says diplomatically.

Seed is Neales's first starring role. "It's amazing — really a dream come true," she says. "It's a huge learning curve."

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Three Songs for the Weekend



SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

This week's selections go far beyond the usual three-chords-and-an-attitude approach, but will pay off with repeated listening. Trust me.



Inhaler/Foals

Best use of a falsetto so far this year. Radio-head-ish, Cure-ish and Tears For Fears-ish with bonus big guitars. New album, *Holy Fire* (Feb. 11), might be their big breakthrough.



This Town Needs Guns/I'll Take the Minute Snake

Like Foals, they're from Oxford. And they've also studied the math rock tendencies of their Radio-head neighbours. The new album is 13.0.0.0.0.



Another Brick in the Wall/Aysedeniz Gokcin

Wherein a young Turkish pianist transforms Pink Floyd into classical pieces of which Franz Liszt would be proud.

Just one of the Girls

Music. Christopher Owens on the story of his new concept album

PAT HEALY
scene@metronews.ca

After disbanding Girls last year, the first project that singer Christopher Owens

chose to tackle under his own name was a concept album called *Lysandre*. The work — full of saxophones and flutes and Owens' take on classic pop-song architecture — might seem like the furthest thing from his previous band, but the narrative arc is all about Girls' first tour in 2008.

"It starts out being excited to go on that tour and not really knowing what to expect, be-

cause I hadn't done any tours before that," he says.

While he's dealing with his Girls experience in a very specific way on this tour, he won't play any Girls songs.

"I will play those songs again in the future," he says. "But I feel like with this album and this tour, it's clearly a thing — and it's kind of obvious that it will be a show of this album."

But Owens wrote the material for *Lysandre* shortly after that first tour, while Girls was still going.

"I didn't put (the songs) away to not work on them with Girls or anything," he says. "They were just seven songs out of the 60 or so that I wrote in those couple of years. And I guess I always kind of thought they would be Girls songs."

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LIFE 3

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Cheers to Robert Burns



LIQUID ASSETS
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I have fond memories of Robert Burns.

Growing up in Halifax, it was a standard post-Saturday-night-on-the-town ritual to enjoy a little fast food in Victoria Park, along Spring Garden Road, before the walk home. The best seat in the house was along the pedestal of the life size monument to the bard that's been standing there since 1919.

Though I don't remember drinking much in the way of Scottish booze back in the day, I'll be raising a glass of something tonight in celebration of Robert Burns Day.

Scotland's claim to liquid fame is scotch — a polarizing whisky typically drunk straight. Rich, aggressive and swimming in personality, it can be a hard glass to swallow for most.

A fine dram to get your palate wet is Bowmore 12 Year Old (\$45.99 to \$64.99); the first recorded single malt distillery (back in 1779) on the island of Islay.

Softer than your average Islay whisky, it offers a rounded, honeyed malt flavour massaged by hints of the classic smoky/peaty character that's made the island famous.

If the thought of drinking scotch without mix doesn't blow your bagpipe, try softening the spirit by adding a touch of spring water.

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With the sauce and corn salsa accompaniment, this is a great Southwestern dish. Sautéing the corn gives it a barbecued flavour.

Be sure to allow time for marinating the steak. Left-

overs taste just as good the next day; either reheat gently or serve at room temperature.

1. Whisk the barbecue sauce, vinegar, molasses and hot pepper sauce in a bowl. Place the flank steak in a shallow, non-reactive baking dish and pour the sauce over the steak. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 2 hours or overnight.

2. For the salsa, spray a non-stick skillet with cooking oil. Place over medium heat, and sauté the corn and red pepper until the corn begins to brown, about 5 minutes. Stir in the beans, onion and cilantro. Set aside.

3. Remove the steak from the marinade, and set the marinade aside in a small saucepan.

4. Preheat the barbecue or a non-stick grill pan to medium-high and spray with cooking oil. Cook the beef over medium-high heat for 5 to 8 minutes per side, or until

it's done to your liking.

5. While the steak is cooking, bring the reserved marinade to a boil and boil for 5 minutes. Serve the steak with the sauce and salsa on the side. **ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN**

Ingredients

- 1 cup barbecue sauce
- 1/3 cup cider vinegar
- 2 tbsp molasses
- 1/4 tsp hot pepper sauce
- 1 1/2 lb flank steak

Salsa

- 1 cup canned corn kernels,

drained

- 1 cup diced red bell pepper
- 1 cup canned black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1/3 cup chopped green onion
- 1/4 cup chopped cilantro

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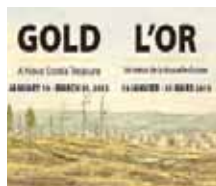


MIX OF SIX
Jenna Conter
halifax@metronews.ca



On Display: Ahead of the Now

Opening Friday at 8 p.m. and on until Feb. 22, The Khyber Centre for the Arts hosts Ahead of the Now. A special project curated by Jared Leon and Johanna Heldebro, consisting of a group video exhibition and print publication, Ahead of the Now brings together a range of exciting and intelligent female artists with a focus on the contemporary relevance of the individual in connection to creative frameworks and contexts.



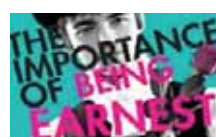
All that Glitters: Gold: A Nova Scotia Treasure

Through March, the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia hosts "the history of bling" in Nova Scotia and tells the little known 150-year-old story of the province and its relationship with gold. This exhibition was inspired by the discovery and identification of 15-water colours by Frederick B. Nichols as well as other industrial landscapes around Halifax. The exhibit explores our gold from its geology and mining history.



African Canadian Identity

Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 invites you now through March 30 to explore the topic of Black identity in Canada in the context of immigration and multiculturalism through Position As Desired: Exploring African Canadian Identity. The exhibit features 26 photographic works from the Wedge Collection, ranging from rare vintage portraits of the first African immigrants to Canada to contemporary works by four emerging artists documenting the experiences of African Canadians.



On Stage: The Importance of Being Earnest

Neptune Theatre Presents an Oscar Wilde satire that captures the shallow foolishness of giddy lovers, snobs and social climbers. Opening Friday and on through Feb. 17, set in London in 1895, young bachelors attempt to reinvent themselves in order to impress the families of the young ladies they hope to marry. Innocent deception, love affairs, overbearing aunts and a slight confusion of names collide amid a flurry of mistaken identities, witty banter and cucumber sandwiches. Tickets: neptunetheatre.com.



Listen In: In the Dead of Winter Music Festival

An acoustic-based festival strives to bring a diverse group of acoustic musicians together to not only perform but to also meet one another in a professional environment. The festival aims to showcase the diversity of acoustic music in the Atlantic Region, Canada and even the United States. For the festival, it's for artists who have not yet had the opportunity to perform their music to a wider audience. Visit inthedeadofwinter.com.



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Moose captain expecting angry reply from opponents

QMJHL. Lewis says two motivated Quebec teams looking for revenge this weekend



ANDREW RANKIN

andrew.rankin@metronews.ca

Halifax Mooseheads captain Trey Lewis is pretty certain he and his teammates will have their hands full this weekend.

After embarrassing the Quebec Remparts in an 11-2 blowout in their own building last Friday, the Mooseheads know the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League's seventh-place squad will arrive at the Metro Centre on Saturday at 7 p.m. ready to enact revenge.

"We beat Quebec pretty bad in their own barn so they're going to come out hard," said Lewis of the rival Remparts. "We're just trying to stay focused on playing our game."

Home fortress

20

The number of home wins the Mooseheads have this season in 22 games.

We have to know that they are going to be looking for some redemption but it will be good to be in our own barn and have the crowd behind us."

Before that, Lewis and Co. are facing another disgruntled opponent in the Sherbrooke Phoenix on Friday at 7 p.m. The day after imposing their will on Quebec, the Mooseheads went into Sherbrooke's rink and skated to a 5-0 victory.

Lewis insists the score belied what was a tough, competitive matchup. He won't underestimate Friday's opponent, which has the third-worst record in the QMJHL.

The victories were part of a perfect Quebec road trip where the Mooseheads recorded three wins in as many nights, including a gritty 4-3 come-from-behind victory against the Blainville-Boisbriand Armada last Sunday.

"I think that was more of a mental test," said Lewis. "We had to work a little harder to keep our focus. We were proud of ourselves in the way that we battled back."

Boasting a six-game winning streak and sitting comfortably atop the standings, the Mooseheads are intent on maintaining their focus in the most gruelling part of the season.



Halifax Mooseheads blue-liner Trey Lewis says two wins will be hard to come by this weekend. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Rainmen drop the hammer on Express



Halifax Rainmen head coach Rob Spon talks to his team during a timeout on Thursday night. ANDREW RANKIN/METRO

After last Sunday's bitter loss, the Halifax Rainmen redeemed themselves with a 110-82 win over the Windsor Express in front of 1,737 Metro Centre fans on Thursday night.

Apart from a brief moment in the second quarter, where the Express were able to cut the lead to single digits, it wasn't close. Bolstered by 59 per cent shooting from the field, Halifax accumulated a 62-42 lead at the half and didn't look back.

The Rainmen out-rebounded their opponent (69-55) and in the end simply outthrust the Express.

For Rainmen guard Hillary Haley, who had 10 points, the

Quoted

"We have to come out with the same intensity, the same effort."

Rainmen forward Antoine Tisby of the home-and-home with Summerside.

victory was about redemption after enduring last weekend's bitter loss to the Moncton Miracles where the Rainmen squandered a 21-point lead.

"We battled, we competed and we wanted to come into today's game and just put a full 48 minutes together," said Haley.

Halifax's Quinzel Brown

led all scorers with 24 points to go with six rebounds. Antoine Tisby and Trayvon Lathan had double doubles — 13 points, 10 rebounds and 15 points, 10 rebounds respectively.

For Tisby, the victory illustrated the team finally buying into coach Rob Spon's defensive system.

"Guys are starting to believe in each other," said Tisby.

Halifax improves to 13-14 and has an opportunity to hit .500 when it visits the Summerside Storm (15-10) on Friday night. The two teams then meet again Sunday at the Metro Centre at 2 p.m.

ANDREW RANKIN/METRO

UFC

Grant to put undefeated win streak on the line

Cole Harbour native T.J. Grant (19-5-0) will be going after his third straight Ultimate Fighting Championship lightweight victory when he takes on Matt Wiman (15-6-0) on Saturday

night in a card being carried live on Fox.

Grant, who's undefeated as a lightweight, is coming off Fight of the Night honours after going the distance in a hard fought victory against Evan Dunham last September at UFC 122 in Toronto.

Grant, 28, is expected to push the pace of the fight. Wiman, 29, is coming off two straight victories. METRO



T.J. Grant UFC

Curling

Arsenault, Nix lead the pack

Mayflower's Mary-Anne Arsenault and Glooscap's Jocelyn Nix sit atop the standings at 4-0 through two days of action at the Nova Scotia Scotties Tournament of Hearts at the Halifax Curling Club.

Arsenault, whose team

includes third Kim Kelly, second Colleen Jones and lead Jen Baxter, won 7-0 over Mayflower's Margaret Cutcliffe on Thursday afternoon, then in the evening draw beat Theresa Breen, also of Mayflower, 8-5.

Defending champion Heather Smith-Dacey and her Mayflower rink are alone in third at 3-1.

The tournament runs through Sunday. METRO

Australian Open

Azarenka fights nerves to make final

Victoria Azarenka had to endure some anxious moments before and after her win over American teenager Sloane Stephens.

Li Na wasn't flustered at all in an easy victory over No. 2-ranked Maria Sharapova.

Li will play for the Australian Open title against Azarenka, who ended Stephens' unexpected run to the semifinals that included a quarter-final upset of Serena Williams.

Another player who had little trouble Thursday was defending champion Novak Djokovic, who overpowered David Ferrer 6-2, 6-2, 6-1 in just one hour, 29 minutes.

Djokovic will attempt to win his third consecutive Australian Open when he plays the winner of Friday's semifinal between Roger Federer and Andy Murray on Sunday.

Azarenka needed six match points to finish off a 6-1, 6-4 victory over Stephens that included a medical timeout.

Australian Open officials said the tournament doctor reported that Azarenka had left knee and rib injuries.

"I just felt a little bit overwhelmed. I realized I'm one step away from the final and nerves got into me for sure," Azarenka said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Victoria Azarenka receives treatment from a trainer on Thursday in Melbourne, Australia. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



In this Sept. 11, 2011, file photo, Jackie and Jack Harbaugh, parents of San Francisco 49ers coach Jim Harbaugh and Baltimore Ravens coach John Harbaugh, stand before a game between the 49ers and the Seattle Seahawks in San Francisco. The entire Harbaugh family already got its Super Bowl victory last Sunday, when each coach did his part to ensure a family reunion in New Orleans next week. PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Harbaughs in stands vow to stay neutral

Super Bowl 47 lead-up.
Family of Ravens and 49ers coaches not saying where they'll be sitting on game day

Jackie Harbaugh will wear a neutral-coloured outfit, still to be determined. Her daughter, Joani Crean, little sister to coaching brothers John and Jim Harbaugh, plans to sport all black at the Super Bowl to show no allegiances whatsoever.

"I am wearing whatever fits that day," Crean quipped.

The entire Harbaugh family — a close-knit, hyper-competitive crew that also

includes Indiana basketball coach Tom Crean — realizes it has already won big. They got their Super Bowl victory on Sunday, when each coach did his part to ensure a family reunion in New Orleans next week, with John's Baltimore Ravens facing off against Jim's San Francisco 49ers in the first Super Bowl with sibling coaches on opposite sidelines.

One Harbaugh will haul home the Lombardi Trophy from the Big Easy.

And, no, the family members haven't decided where to sit for the Feb. 3 NFL title game at the Superdome — or at least they aren't revealing it if they have.

"We are neutral in the Super Bowl, and we are

just excited that they have brought their teams to the pinnacle of sports," Jackie Harbaugh said Thursday. "The Super Bowl is the ultimate accomplishment for them and for their teams and for all of the extended football family and all of the teams who have participated in this great game. We are excited for that type of thing."

Her sons, all of 15 months apart, have tried to downplay this matchup from the moment it developed — each wanting to keep the focus on the players on the field.

Fortunately for the Harbaugh folks, they've been through this once before, albeit on a slightly smaller stage: Prime time on Thanksgiving night 2011. John's Ravens won 16-6 at home.

"We experienced that last year at Thanksgiving," Jack Harbaugh said, "the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Relationship hoax. Te'o plays voice mails from 'girlfriend' on Couric show

The person Manti Te'o says was pretending to be his on-line girlfriend told the Notre Dame linebacker "I love you" in voice mails played during his interview with Katie Couric.

Taped earlier this week and broadcast Thursday, the hour-long talk show featured three voice mails that Te'o claims were left for him last year. Te'o said they were from the person he believed to be Lennay Kekua, a woman he had fallen for online but never met face-to-face.

After the first message was played, Te'o said: "It sounds like a girl, doesn't it?"

"It does," Couric responded.

The interview was the All-American's first on camera since his tale of inspired play after the deaths of his grandmother and girlfriend on the same day in September un-



Manti Te'o THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

ravelled as a hoax in an exposé by Deadspin.com on Jan. 16.

Couric addressed speculation the tale was concocted by Te'o as a way to cover up his sexual orientation. Asked if he were gay, Te'o said "no" with a laugh. "Far from it. Faaaar from that."

He also said he was "scared" and "didn't know what to do" after receiving a call on Dec. 6 — two days before the Heisman Trophy presentation — from a person who claimed to be his "dead" girlfriend.

The first voice mail was from what was supposed to be Kekua's first day of chemotherapy for leukemia.

"Hi, I am just letting you know I got here and I'm getting ready for my first session and, um, just want to call you to keep you posted. I miss you. I love you. Bye," the person said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Convincing voice?

- Couric suggested the person who left the voice mail messages might have been Ronaiah Tuiasosopo, a 22-year-old man from California, who Te'o said has apologized to him for pulling the hoax.
- Tuiasosopo has not spoken publicly since news of the hoax broke.

CFL

Face of the Lions dealt to Riders

The longtime face of the B.C. Lions franchise is heading to Saskatchewan.

Geroy Simon, the CFL's all-time receiving yards leader, was traded to the Roughriders on Thursday in exchange for receiver Justin Harper and a third-round pick in the 2014 Canadian

college draft.

Simon, a two-time Grey Cup champ and six-time CFL all-star, has recorded 15,787 yards over his 14-year career.

"The fans in B.C. have treated me as one of their own since I arrived here in 2001, and I'll never forget it," Simon said. "I'm looking forward to a new and exciting opportunity in Saskatchewan."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Islanders give Leafs a rude awakening

NHL. New York rallies from 3-1 deficit to snag a big win at Air Canada Centre in Toronto

Ironman Matt Moulson went on the offensive Thursday night for the New York Islanders.

The veteran forward scored twice in his 248th straight NHL game, helping the Islanders rally from an early 3-1 deficit to capture a 7-4 victory over the Toronto Maple Leafs.

"I had a bunch of chances the last couple of games, but

couldn't get anything to go in," Moulson said. "I just have to keep whacking away in front of the net."

Moulson, in his fifth NHL season and fourth with the Islanders, has yet to miss a game with New York.

But it didn't look good early for New York (2-1), which trailed 3-1 after the first period but gained momentum by killing off a two-man advantage late in the frame. After tying it up with two goals in the second, the Islanders took control by scoring four times in the third to open a five-game, eight-day road trip on a winning note.

On Thursday

7

Islanders

4

Maple Leafs

Toronto (2-2) fell to 0-2 on home ice this season as they returned to the Air Canada Centre following a solid 5-2 road victory in Pittsburgh on Wednesday night. But that didn't impress some among the ACC gathering of 19,125 who began chanting "Let's go Blue Jays"

with 2:40 remaining.

"I think we saw one team last night and a totally different team tonight," Toronto head coach Randy Carlyle said. "We were out of it, we were out of sync."

Toronto finished the contest 0-5 on the power play, including 0-2 while enjoying a two-man advantage for a combined 52 seconds that left Carlyle shaking his head.

"It's huge, it usually comes back to haunt you," Carlyle said. "It you don't score on your 5-on-3 at some point in the game usually momentum is going to turn in favour of the opposition." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Maple Leafs goalie Ben Scrivens reacts as New York Islanders left winger Matt Moulson celebrates a goal on Thursday in Toronto. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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PUBLIC AUCTIONS

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R.S.N.S. 1989, as amended
- and -

IN THE MATTER OF an Application of **Capilano Developments Limited** for Leave to Surrender its Certificate of Incorporation

NOTICE is hereby given that CAPILANO DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED intends to make an application to the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies for leave to surrender its Certificate of Incorporation.

DATED this ____ day of January, 2013.

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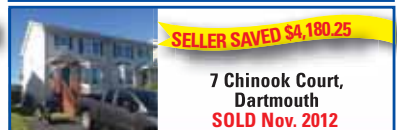
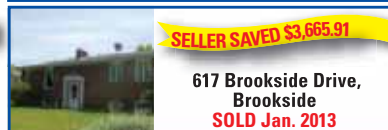
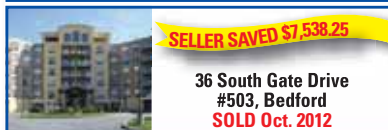
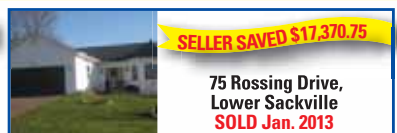
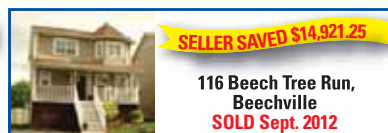
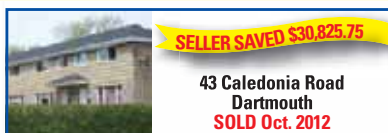
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Horoscopes

♈ Aries

March 21 - April 20

So long as you enjoy what you are doing, you won't care in the slightest what other people think. Life is simply too short to worry about whether the world sees you as a "good guy" or a "bad guy".

♉ Taurus

April 21 - May 21

The only danger today is that because you insist on everything being thought out and planned in advance you might lose the spark of spontaneity that turns good ideas into great ideas. Be more open to alternative viewpoints.

♊ Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Today's Sun-Uranus link is sure to change your life for the better in some way. Exactly how and to what extent is impossible to know but by this time tomorrow you will have both a wider and deeper view of reality.

♋ Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Don't limit yourself to tried and trusted methods. Try something new for a change. Uranus, planet of changes, is urging you to be a bit more adventurous, especially on the work front where you should be taking the lead.

♌ Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

You must live up to your beliefs, even if it brings you into conflict with people you would prefer not to make enemies of. You are entitled to think for yourself and to express your opinions, loudly if needs be.

♍ Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

You have been ignoring a number of warning signals and that's not a good idea. Today's Sun-Uranus link will again indicate where you have been going wrong and this time you must take appropriate action.

♏ Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Try not to exert yourself too much today. Given the choice between doing more or doing less, choose the latter without hesitation. You've done your bit, so treat yourself to a break.

♐ Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

If you are typical of your sign, you sometimes find it hard to think outside certain limits or boundaries. But, today's Sun-Uranus link will shatter any barriers that are holding you back. The word "impossible" should not exist.

♑ Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You could easily mislead yourself today about an issue that seems unimportant but is likely to have far-reaching consequences. Check every relevant fact. Don't take anything on trust, not even what your own senses tell you.

♒ Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Forget about perfection today. Just aim to be as good as you can be at what you do and be happy with that. It's always good to set yourself new goals but it's not good to make them unreachable.

♊ Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

The Sun in your sign makes a positive link to your ruling planet Uranus today, which in plain language means that all your best traits will come to the forefront. Others will see you as some kind of genius.

♓ Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

You must not be indecisive today, because an opportunity will arrive out of the blue and if you don't make use of it immediately it will pass you by just as quickly. You may not feel confident, but act as if you are.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

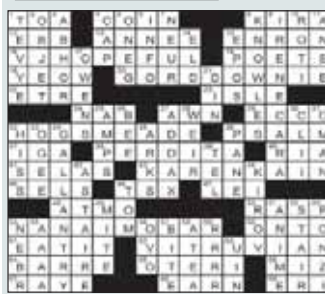
Across

1. "Piano Man" Billy
5. Sea: French
8. Hong __
12. Valley of BC, Bella __
13. Wonderment
14. __ Vanilli
15. Commencement
16. Canadian singer/songwriter: 2 wds.
18. "Hansel & Gretel __" (2013)
20. Abound
21. Madonna's 1996 title role's namesakes
24. Irving Wallace novel, __ Document
27. Start of a challenge: 2 wds.
29. Dr. Frankenstein's pal
31. "The Matrix __" (2003)
33. Terminate
34. Music's __ Young Band
35. Movie studio
38. " __ Have to Say the Words?" by Bryan Adams
39. Ms. Tyler (of CBS' "The Talk")
41. Vito Corleone's gig: 2 wds.
43. Capital of Qatar
44. "Ocean __" by 54-40
46. Truck types
47. Late-Medieval war helmet
49. "Exfol" ending
51. "Hockey Night in Canada" feature: 2 wds.
56. 90-second healthy living TV spot
59. Contaminate
60. Destiny's Child, and others
61. __-la-la
62. Ms. Macphail, Canada's first woman MP, in 1921
63. Fridge's friend
64. Ruler measurements [abbr.]
65. Shakespearean King

Down

1. Music's Ms. Mitchell
2. Flemish painter, Jacob van __ the Elder
3. Music genre, __-pop
4. Workshop machine
5. Shaun of "This Hour Has 22 Minutes"
6. Mr. McGregor
7. Tenant
8. Actress Ms. Alley
9. Not new
10. Atlanta Braves' baseball div.
11. __ rummy
12. Moo-er
14. Great Big Sea song: " __-Mac"
17. Ms. Campbell
19. Reality star Ms. Montag
22. "In __-Da-Vida" by Iron Butterfly
23. "Must you leave __?"

Yesterday's Crossword

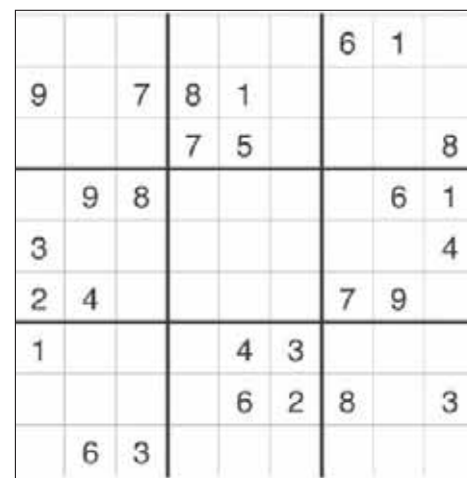


Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Today

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Partly cloudy

Saturday

-9°/-14°

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IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS* **FINANCING FOR 24 MONTHS**



2012 CANADIAN & NORTH AMERICAN CAR OF THE YEAR

HWY: 5.2L/100 KM
CITY: 7.1L/100 KM

OR GET YOUR LOWEST PAYMENT

\$95 **AT 2.98%***
BI-WEEKLY \$0 DOWN **FINANCING FOR 84 MONTHS**

2013 ELANTRA

FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE \$15,444*

ALL OFFERS INCLUDE \$2,000 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS.
ELANTRA L 6-SPEED MANUAL.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.



Limited model shown



SE with Tech. shown

GET UP TO
\$1,850 **WITH 0%[†]**
IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS* **FINANCING FOR 24 MONTHS**



2013 AJAC BEST NEW SMALL CAR (OVER \$21K)



HWY: 5.3L/100 KM
CITY: 7.8L/100 KM

OR GET YOUR LOWEST PAYMENT

\$115 **AT 2.98%***
BI-WEEKLY \$0 DOWN **FINANCING FOR 84 MONTHS**

2013 ELANTRA GT

FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE \$18,794*

ALL OFFERS INCLUDE \$1,850 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS.
ELANTRA GT GL 6-SPEED MANUAL.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

GET UP TO
\$3,500 **WITH 0%[†]**
IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS* **FINANCING FOR 48 MONTHS**



THE MOST FUEL-EFFICIENT FULL-SIZED CAR – NATURAL RESOURCE CANADA'S 2012 ECOENERGY VEHICLE AWARD*

HWY: 5.6L/100 KM
CITY: 8.7L/100 KM

OR GET YOUR LOWEST PAYMENT

\$132 **AT 2.29%***
BI-WEEKLY \$0 DOWN **FINANCING FOR 84 MONTHS**

2013 SONATA

FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE \$22,064*

ALL OFFERS INCLUDE \$3,500 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS.
SONATA GL AUTO.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.



Limited model shown



Limited model shown

GET UP TO
\$1,150 **WITH 0%[†]**
IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS* **FINANCING FOR 24 MONTHS**



2013 AJAC BEST NEW SUV (OVER \$35K)



HWY: 6.7L/100 KM
CITY: 10.1L/100 KM

OR GET YOUR LOWEST PAYMENT

\$166 **AT 2.98%***
BI-WEEKLY \$0 DOWN **FINANCING FOR 84 MONTHS**

2013 SANTA FE

FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE \$27,109*

ALL OFFERS INCLUDE \$1,150 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS.
SANTA FE 2.4L FWD AUTO.
DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

5 YEAR WARRANTY
100,000 KM
COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY

5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty



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™The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. 10% Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2013 Elantra L 6-Speed Manual/Elantra GT GL 6-Speed Manual/Sonata GL Auto/Santa Fe 2.4L FWD Auto with an annual finance rate of 0% for 24/24/48/24 months. Bi-weekly payment is \$297/\$362/\$213/\$522. No down payment required. Cost of Borrowing is \$0. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination of \$1,495/\$1,495/\$1,565/\$1,760. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. Financing example: 2013 Sonata GL Auto for \$22,064 (includes \$3,500 price adjustment) at 0% per annum equals \$213 bi-weekly for 48 months for a total obligation of \$22,064. Cash price is \$22,064. Cost of Borrowing is \$0. Example price includes Delivery and Destination of \$1,565. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. *Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2013 Elantra L 6-Speed Manual/Elantra GT GL 6-Speed Manual/Sonata GL Auto/Santa Fe 2.4L FWD Auto with an annual finance rate of 2.98%/2.98%/2.29%/2.98% for 84 months. Bi-weekly payment is \$36/\$115/\$132/\$166. No down payment required. Cost of Borrowing is \$1,687/\$2,052/\$1,837/\$2,960. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination of \$1,495/\$1,495/\$1,565/\$1,760. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. Financing example: 2013 Sonata GL Auto for \$22,064 (includes \$3,500 price adjustment) at 2.29% per annum equals \$132 bi-weekly for 84 months for a total obligation of \$23,901. Cash price is \$22,064. Cost of Borrowing is \$1,837. Example price includes Delivery and Destination of \$1,565. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. *Friends & Family Selling Prices are calculated against the starting price less all factory to dealer price adjustments (including Friends & Family price adjustments). Friends & Family Selling Prices include Delivery and Destination. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. †Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. ‡Based on Natural Resource Canada's 2012 ecoEnergy award for most fuel efficient full-size car. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.